



Faizul H. Ibrahim

ANTHROPOLOGIST | PHD FELLOW



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Gender: Male
DOB: 7/8/1990
Nationality: Bruneian

Introduction

I am an anthropologist and a PhD fellow at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS), Kyoto University. I am pursuing a career in academia and my research interest is in ethnicity, ethnic identity, Borneo studies, Dusun studies, social class, and food anthropology.

Research Work & Political Experiences

Research Assistant to Special Academic Advisor

Universiti Brunei Darussalam | 2019-2021

- Conducted anthropological research on Dusun identity and community in Brunei
- Worked under the supervision of Special Academic Advisor Professor Dr Tong Chee Kiong, in close collaboration with Professor Dr Lian Kwen Fee and Dr Yabit Alas
- Reviewed and synthesized extensive academic literature
- Transcribed qualitative data and co-authored scholarly research papers
- Carried out fieldwork in the Tutong District, building a grassroots network of community informants
- Contributed to the production of a series of academic papers on the ethnic Dusun of Brunei

Research Assistant

Centre for Advanced Research (CARE) | 2018-2019

- Supported a multidisciplinary research centre commissioned by both public and private sector stakeholders
- Contributed to research initiatives across three core clusters: Youth & Economy, Welfare & Poverty, and Health & Aging
- Specialised exclusively in the Health & Aging research project, focusing on elderly populations
- Conducted extensive fieldwork in the Belait and Brunei-Muara districts, engaging directly with senior citizens
- Led and carried out in-depth interviews with elderly participants, collecting qualitative data to inform research outcomes

Research Assistant

Institute of Asian Studies (Universiti Brunei Darussalam) | 2015

- Assisted Professor Dr Lian Kwen Fee on the research project "South Asian Migrant Workers in Brunei: A Sociological Study of Temporary Labour Migration" under the Institute of Asian Studies
- Identified, recruited, and interviewed informants in qualitative interviews to gather firsthand data for the sociological field research
- Transcribed interview recordings accurately, ensuring data integrity for analysis and publication

Political Intern (Department of Politics One)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs | 2013

- Wrote daily political intelligence reports on Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and Australia for the Department of Politics One
- Supported departmental work during Brunei's ASEAN Chairmanship (2013), contributing to high-level regional proceedings
- Assisted in the administration and coordination of ASEAN meetings and diplomatic summits, ensuring smooth execution
- Drafted meeting agendas and official visit programmes for ASEAN-related events
- Coordinated flight and logistical planning for official delegations
- Conducted in-depth research on ASEAN institutions, member states, and regional affairs to support departmental operations

Other Career Highlights

I am balancing my Ph.D. responsibilities with ongoing teaching as an English-language educator in Japan. I bring extensive cross-sector experience spanning advertising, digital marketing, copywriting, politics, and qualitative research. In addition, I am a certified trainer in peacebuilding and development (UNESCO) and gender dialogue (UN Women).

Education Background

Kyoto University

Ph.D. Southeast Asian Area Studies | 2022-Present

Attending the Division of Southeast Asian Area Studies, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS)

MA Southeast Asian Area Studies | 2024

Awarded a Master's degree under the 5-year integrated doctoral program.

Thesis: Who are the Brunei Dusun: Indigenous Identification and Ethnic Group Formation

Universiti Brunei Darussalam

MA Anthropology (By Research) | 2020

Thesis: Understanding and Framing Middle-Class Bruneians Through Food Choices

Universiti Brunei Darussalam

BA Sociology and Anthropology | 2015

Thesis: Understanding the Multifaceted Identity of the Brunei Dusun

Languages

Languages: English, Malay and Indonesian

IELTS Score – 7.5 (C1)

Contact Information

Japan Address: 611-0011, 206, Leoplace Gokasho II, 5-1 Gokasho Okamoto, Uji-shi, Kyoto

Brunei Address: No. 27, Spg. 71, Kg. Kulapis, Brunei

- 070-1276-8538
- trwbyfaizul@gmail.com
- thereasonablewriter.com

Conferences & Guest Lectures

| 2026

Presenter at 6th SEASIA Biennial Conference “Forging Southeast Asia’s Futures”

School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

| 2025

Presenter at Transnational Seminar: Reorienting Borneo Studies

CSEAS, Kyoto University

REFEREES & REFERENCES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

Educator in Japan

KLC International | 2023-Present
Native English Teacher

Universal Campus | 2023-Present
Native English Teacher

Benesse BE Studio | 2023-Present
Native Visitation English Teacher

Scholarships Awarded

MEXT (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship Recipient | 2022-Present

Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship (BDGS) | 2012-2020

Visiting Research Scholar

Ethnography Section of Brunei Museum Departments | 2024-Present

Publications

| Submitted and Pending

Being and Becoming Contestation of Identity among the Dusun of Borneo
Tariq Modood, Tong Chee-Kiong, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Lian Kwen Fee

Deconstructing Ethnicity in Borneo: The Lowland Dusun of Brunei

Lian Kwen Fee, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Tong Chee Kiong

| 2026

Accommodative Secularism and Cultural Homogenization in Singapore and Borneo
Tong Chee Kiong, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Lian Kwen Fee

Ethnic-formation and Social Change: The Lowland Dusun of Brunei 1950s – 1990s

Lian Kwen Fee, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Tong Chee Kiong

The Last Penan Family in Brunei

Dk Ain Pg Musa and Faizul Ibrahim

| 2018-2023

Food Choices and the Malay Muslim Middle Class in Brunei Darussalam
Faizul Ibrahim

Who are the Dusun in Brunei Representation and Deconstruction of an Ethnic Identity
Faizul Ibrahim

Kitchen Anthropology: Understanding Food, Cooking and Eating in Bruneian Middle-Class Families

Faizul Ibrahim

| 2025

Guest Lecturer for International Business Studies

Department of Economics, College of Liberal Arts, Temple University (TUJ), Kyoto, Japan

| 2019-Present

Guest Lecturer for AZ-4310 Anthropology of Food

Sociology-Anthropology Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Brunei